

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A computerized method for updating content in an electronic document, wherein the updating relies on the existence of a persisted policy scheme, the computerized method comprising:

accepting the electronic document;

identifying one or more rights management protections associated with content of the electronic document, said rights management protections being defined by the persisted policy scheme;

pre-licensing the accepted electronic document by obtaining a use license on behalf of a user, said use license being defined by the persisted policy scheme and ~~being associated with~~ defining restrictions on the content of the electronic document;

determining whether the content of the electronic document has exceeded the rights management protections defined by the persisted policy scheme;

if the content of the electronic document has exceeded the rights management protections, replacing a portion of the content of the electronic document with an indicating piece of data such that the content of the electronic document is modified; and

permitting use of the modified content of the electronic document in accordance with the defined restrictions of the obtained use license.

Claim 2 (previously presented): The computerized method of claim 1 wherein the electronic document is an electronic mail (e-mail) communication.

Claim 3 (previously presented): The computerized method of claim 1 wherein the determining and replacing are performed on a scheduled interval.

Claim 4 (previously presented): The computerized method of claim 1 wherein the determining and replacing are performed on an ad-hoc basis.

Claim 5 (currently amended): A computer-readable storage medium containing instructions for performing a method for updating content in an electronic document, wherein the updating relies on the existence of a persisted policy scheme, the method comprising:

accepting the electronic document;

identifying one or more rights management protections associated with content of the electronic document, said rights management protections being defined by the persisted policy scheme;

pre-licensing the accepted electronic document by obtaining a use license on behalf of a user, said use license being defined by the persisted policy scheme and ~~being associated with~~ defining restrictions on the content of the electronic document;

determining whether the content of the electronic document has exceeded the rights management protections defined by the persisted policy scheme;

if the content of the electronic document has exceeded the rights management protections, replacing a portion of the content of the electronic document with an indicating piece of data such that the content of the electronic document is modified; and

permitting use of the modified content of the electronic document in accordance with the defined restrictions of the obtained use license.

Claims 6-10 (canceled).

Claim 11 (currently amended): A computerized method for updating content in an electronic document, wherein the updating relies on the existence of a persisted policy scheme, the computerized method comprising:

accepting the electronic document;

identifying one or more rights management protections associated with content of the electronic document, said rights management protections defining an expiration according to the persisted policy scheme;

pre-licensing the accepted electronic document by obtaining a use license on behalf of a user, said use license being defined by the persisted policy scheme and ~~being associated with the~~

~~content of the electronic document~~, said use license granting access to and defining restrictions on the content of the electronic document by the user;

determining whether the content of the electronic document has exceeded an expiration of the rights management protections defined by the persisted policy scheme; and

if the content of the electronic document has exceeded the expiration of the rights management protections, replacing a portion of the content of the electronic document with a refreshed copy of the portion of the content of the electronic document such that the electronic document maintains the rights management protections even though the user is pre-licensed to access the original content of the electronic document in accordance with the defined restrictions of the obtained use license.

Claim 12 (previously presented): The computerized method of claim 11 wherein the electronic document is an electronic mail (e-mail) communication.

Claim 13 (previously presented): The computerized method of claim 11 wherein the determining and replacing are performed on a scheduled interval.

Claim 14 (previously presented): The computerized method of claim 11 wherein the determining and replacing are performed on an ad-hoc basis.

Claim 15 (currently amended): A computer-readable storage medium containing instructions for performing a method for updating content in an electronic document, wherein the updating relies on the existence of a persisted policy scheme, the method comprising:

accepting the electronic document;

identifying one or more rights management protections associated with content of the accepted electronic document, said rights management protections defining an expiration according to the persisted policy scheme;

pre-licensing the accepted electronic document by obtaining a use license on behalf of a user, said use license being defined by the persisted policy scheme, said use license granting access to and defining restrictions on the content of the electronic document by the user;

determining whether the content of the electronic document has exceeded the expiration of the rights management protections; and

if the content of the electronic document has exceeded the expiration of the rights management protections, updating a portion of the content of the electronic document with a refreshed copy of the portion of the content of the electronic document such that the electronic document maintains the rights management protections even though the user is pre-licensed to access the original content of the electronic document in accordance with the defined restrictions of the obtained use license.

Claim 16 (previously presented): A computerized method for specifying an updating process for content in an electronic document, wherein the updating relies on the existence of a persisted policy scheme, said electronic document having one or more rights management protections associated with content thereof, said rights management protections being defined by the persisted policy scheme, the computerized method comprising:

configuring the updating process to identify content in the electronic document that has the one or more rights management protections associated therewith, to pre-license the content of electronic document with a use license on behalf of a user, and to replace a portion of the content of the electronic document with an indicating piece of data such that the content of the electronic document is modified if the electronic document has exceeded the rights management protections thereby permitting use of the modified content of the electronic document by the pre-licensed user.

Claim 17 (previously presented): The computerized method of claim 16 further comprising defining an interval for the updating process to be performed.

Claim 18 (previously presented): The computerized method of claim 16 further comprising defining the updating process to be performed on an ad-hoc basis.

Claim 19 (previously presented): A computer-readable storage medium containing instructions for performing a method for specifying an updating process for content in an electronic document, wherein the updating relies on the existence of a persisted policy scheme, said

electronic document having one or more rights management protections associated with content thereof, said rights management protections being defined by the persisted policy scheme, the method comprising:

configuring the updating process to identify content in the electronic document that has the one or more rights management protections associated therewith, to pre-license the content of the electronic document with a use license on behalf of a user, and to replace a portion of the content of the electronic document with an indicating piece of data such that the content of the electronic document is modified if the electronic document has exceeded rights management protections thereby permitting use of the modified content of the electronic document by the pre-licensed user.

Claim 20 (canceled).

Claim 21 (previously presented): The computerized method of claim 20 further comprising defining an interval for the updating process to be performed.

Claim 22 (previously presented): The computerized method of claim 20 further comprising defining the updating process to be performed on an ad-hoc basis.

Claim 23 (canceled).

Claim 24 (previously presented): A computerized method for specifying an updating process for content in an electronic document, wherein the updating relies on the existence of a persisted policy scheme, said electronic document having one or more rights management protections associated with content thereof, said rights management protections defining an expiration according to the persisted policy scheme, the computerized method comprising:

configuring the updating process to identify content in the electronic document that has the one or more rights management protections, to pre-license the content of the electronic document with a use license on behalf of a user to access the content of the electronic document, and to replace a portion of the content of the electronic document with a refreshed copy of the portion of the content of the electronic document such that the electronic document maintains the

rights management protections if the electronic document has exceeded the expiration of the rights management protections even though the user is pre-licensed to access the original content of the electronic document in accordance with the obtained use license.

Claim 25 (previously presented): The computerized method of claim 24 further comprising defining an interval for the updating process to be performed.

Claim 26 (previously presented): The computerized method of claim 24 further comprising defining the updating process to be performed on an ad-hoc basis.

Claim 27 (previously presented): A computer-readable storage medium containing instructions for performing a method for specifying an updating process for content in an electronic document, wherein the updating relies on the existence of a persisted policy scheme, said electronic document having one or more rights management protections associated with content thereof, said rights management protections defining an expiration according to the persisted policy scheme, the method comprising:

configuring the updating process to identify content in the electronic document that has the one or more rights management protections associated therewith, to pre-license the content of the electronic document with a use license on behalf of a user to access the content of the electronic document, and to replace a portion of the content of the electronic document with a refreshed copy of the portion of the content of the electronic document such that the electronic document maintains the rights management protections if the electronic document has exceeded the expiration of the rights management protections even though the user is pre-licensed to access the original content of the electronic document in accordance with the obtained use license.